Amendment to Consumer Protection Act

1769. SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA;

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER; AFFAIRS AND PjUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state .

(a) whether the present Consumer Protection Act has proved insufficient;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to further amend the present Consumer Protection Act;

(c) if so, the details of the proposed amendment stating the time limit, if any, for the amendment in the Act; and

(d) the effective steps taken/likely to be taken to implement the new Act to provide its facility to 70 per cent of rural peopiejeons timers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was exbaus-i tively amended in 1993 to increase its scope and to strengthen the redressal agencies envisaged in the Act. However, in, the XVI meeting of the Central Consumer Protection Council held on 8th June, 1994, a resolution was passed to constitute a Working Group to examine the need to bring about changes in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and Rules in the light of experience gained, so far and difficulties which have arisen in many cases as a result of judicial pronouncements. The Working Group has since been constituted.

(d) The Act envisages setting up a three tier redressal machinery at the national, state and district levels where the consumers, both rural and urban, can file complaints for redressal of their grievances in the field of defective goods, defiencent Services, unfair trade practices etc As per information available, 455 District Fora are functioning in the country.

Amendment to Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules(1977.

1770. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to the ans wer to Unstarred Question 1831 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 1994 and state whether large multinationals and domestic corporate majors have made any suggestions or urged the Government to deregulate the sale of certain commodi ties in packages by amending the Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities)rules and if so, what are the details there of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): No, Sir The amendment referred in the answer to part (b) of the Unstarred Question 1831 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 1994 was not on the suggestion of large multinationals and domestic corporate majors.

Proliferation inidentical pack sizesi

1771. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIR AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prolifera tion in the pack sizes wheih are identical
to each other is detrimental to the consu mer interest;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that soft drinks in 250 ml. and 300 ml. bot tles are too close to each other and hen ce are not in the consumer interest as the size of the two bottles are very simi lar and hence difficult to differentiate; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to protect the consumer's inttrest?